THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Complaints about non-compliance with safety provisions in coal mines are received from time to time. The complaints are inquired into by the Directorate General of Mines Safety and remedial measures are taken as appropriate.

Extension of chord line from Chengalpattu to Villupuram

2261. SHRI T. R. BALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to extend the chord line from Chengalpattu to Villupuram in Southern Railway; and

(b) if so, what is the cost of the project and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A direct MG line already exists between Chengalpattu and Villupuram.

Laying of main sewer line in Bodella, West Delhi

2262. SHRI T. R. BALU: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main sewerage lines have not yet been laid by Delhi Development Authority/Municipal Corporation of Delhi in Bodella (Phase-II) of West Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Delhi Water Supply & Sewage Disposal Undertaking have reported that trunk sewer of 72 dia to collect sewerage from Bodella Phase I & II colonies has already been laid. Delhi Development Authority has reported that the laying of main sewer lines in Group Housing Society area Bodella Phase II could not be completed as the work was abandoned by the contractor. Alternative arrangements have now been made to complete the work by the end of this year.

Bottlenecks in the fertilizer industry

2263. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizers' Association of India has drawn Government's attention to certain bottelenecks which have hampered the growth of the industry;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have since taken any steps to remove those bottlenecks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b) Yes sir, the Fertilizer Association of India has represented against the higher norms of capacity utilisation and longer period of depreciation notified by Govt. with effect from April 1, 1988.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to reconsider the norms relating to depreciation period.

Encroachment in West Delhi DDA flats

2264. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration

has recently taken firm steps to stop encroachment in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that encroachment in West Delhi particularly in DDA flats has increased manifold; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to demolish all such encroachments which have come up during the year 1989 in West Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Delhi Administration has directed public agencies to maintain strict vigil and to take preventive action. Control Rooms have also been set up by the Delhi Development Authority. Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, to facilitate prompt reporting of encroachments by public.

(c) and (d). The Delhi Develoment Authority and the Municipal Cororation of Delhi have reported unauthorised construction in their respective jurisdiction including in DDA flats. Action has been taken by Delhi Development Authority and Municipal Corporation of Delhi under Delhi Development Act, 1957 and Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 resectively.

Uncultivated land in the country

2265. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large area still uncultivated in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union territory-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that some area of the above land has since been converted into agricultural land;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to convert the remaining uncultivated land into agricultural land; and

(f) if so, the details of the programmes to be taken up in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b) The extent of uncultivated land is subject to annual variation. Out of the total geographical area of about 329 million ha., according to current estimates, an extent of about 41-42 million ha. is classified as uncultivated land including permanent pasture and grazing lands, miscellaneous tree crops, groves, culturable wastelands, fallows other than current fallows. A statement showing statewise information is annexed. (*See* below).

(c) to (f) State and Central Governments are undertaking programmes for bringing the uncultivated wastelands under biomass production primarily for fuel and fodder. Increased agricultural production is sought to be achieved through vartical growth in productivity rather than through horizontal spread.